

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Riverside City Council Meeting

Held on Thursday, February 10, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** Deputy Mayor Denning called the Riverside, Ohio City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverside Administrative Offices located at 5200 Springfield Street, Suite 100, Riverside, Ohio, 45431.

**ROLL CALL:** Council attendance was as follows: Mr. Denning, present; Mrs. Franklin, present; Ms. Fry, present; Mr. Joseph, present; Ms. Lommatzsch, present; Mr. Maxfield, present; and Mayor Williams, present.

Staff present was as follows: Josh Rauch, City Manager; Tom Garrett, Finance Director; Kathy Bartlett, Public Service Director, Frank Robinson, Police Chief; Dan Stitzel, Fire Chief; Jim Miller, Associate Law Director; and Katie Lewallen, Clerk of Council.

**EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:** No council members were absent.

**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:** Mr. Rauch stated that a supplemental appropriations ordinance originally put on the agenda has been moved to the following week.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ms. Lommatzsch motioned to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Maxfield seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Mayor Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Maxfield motioned to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2022, work session and the January 20, 2022 council meeting. Mrs. Franklin seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

**WRITTEN CITIZEN PETITIONS:** Mayor Williams stated any citizens who join them and wish to speak should fill out a petition and turn it in to the clerk. Citizen would be called up in the order of business.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

**A) Police Department** – Chief Robinson stated they are having a few sporadic issues with Covid-19, but currently, zero personnel are out with it. They did first panel interviews today for the sergeant eligibility list and the second will be held next Tuesday. Once those are done, he will review the top three and he and the city manager will review who that will be. He acknowledged the hard work done by the service department and the police and fire departments over the ugly weekend due to the weather. He heard many good comments for different departments with service doing the brunt of the work to clear the roads. Police and fire did help citizens stuck in the snow and they have received compliments on that. The Lexipol policy review is finally finished and tier one has been sent out to all personnel so they can review it and sign off on it. There are four more tiers to go out that will go out in three week increments to give time for them to get through those and sign off so everyone knows the new and current policies they have. They appreciate they have Lexipol as it makes it easier for them and there is a training component in there as well. He stated that the date for the active shooter training has been set for March 29, 2022, at

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Riverside City Council Meeting

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Carroll High School. Elayna in HR and Major Sturgeon set May 1, 2022, as active shooter training in the city building. He stated that GTech is the computer system they use in the cruisers, and they also have a camera system they are trying to emerge. Currently, the police use Watchguard. GTech is going to bring a car camera and two body cameras next week and install in a vehicle. Then, on March 1, they will train the officers to use the equipment for the demo. This will allow them to look at what they have before they put out an RFP to get bids. They will review how well they function in the field. He stated the Mad River Local Schools family celebration was canceled, but has now been rescheduled for Saturday, February 19, 10 am – 2 pm. He announced that the police department put in for a zero-match grant for body cameras, and the State of Ohio gave them \$38,785.

**B) Fire Department** – Chief Stitzel echoed Chief Robinson’s comments on everyone doing a great job during the recent storm. He appreciated how everybody came together as a team and worked together. He stated they did not have a lot of storm incidences, but a few crashes. He stated he had been losing part-time personnel. He recently put two part-time in as full-time as he lost two full-timers. As of next week, he will have eight part-time people gone though he just hired four so there will be a net loss of four part-time personnel. They are trying to fill those and doing a lot of advertising, recruiting, going through the application process, and testing. Firefighter Balcom, who has been doing the community paramedicine program, is on light duty as she was off for a few weeks with a surgery and will be back on Monday. She will be on light duty continuing the paramedicine program as it has been a success in the community. He is assisting with the police sergeant interviews to give them an extra person on the panel.

**C) Service Department** – Ms. Bartlett stated the biggest activity in her department has been the recent storm and snow removal. The crews worked 12-hour shifts through Saturday to clear the roadways, including the plats. The guys did a great job and received a lot of compliments on Facebook. There were three bidders for the 2022 paving program, which were received today. Fillmore Construction was the low bid at \$1.8 million. That is \$400,000 under the engineer’s estimate. She is working on two pieces of legislation with the Montgomery County Conservancy District that will come before council in March and has to do with keeping in line with EPA regulations. She stated that final plans are near completion on the Harshman Wall project. They are also receiving quotes on this year’s crack sealing program.

**D) City Manager Report** – Mr. Rauch recognized the performance of all three of the departments, specifically public service, police and fire for their efforts during and after the storm. He mentioned particularly the line staff being out in the weather last week as it was bumpy, uncomfortable, and cold. He recognized department directors for their leadership in coordinating all the efforts. He presented the Ohio Municipal League new council training conference on March 5, a Saturday, and directed those wishing to attend to let the clerk know as soon as possible. It is a good session to hear from the OML attorneys and provide updates to any changes in the law as well as information for those new to public service or a different position in public service. He encouraged all of council to attend, if possible. He explained that the appropriation ordinance for the backhoe is not taking any money from the savings, it is literally moving budgeted money from one account to another.



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Riverside City Council Meeting

Held on Thursday, February 10, 2022

Due to the meeting last week being postponed, the ordinance would not have enough time for publication in the paper between its first and second reading so they will have to do the ordinance as an emergency at the meeting next week. The other constraint is that there are only three backhoe units left in the area so they need to purchase it sooner rather than later. They can pass the appropriations ordinance at the next meeting and then the resolution for the backhoe purchase. They are able to trade-in their current backhoe, which will drop the price of the new backhoe by roughly \$30,000. He added that the council handbook ordinance will come before them at the next meeting with the second reading at the first meeting in March so a little more of a delay. Also, in March, they will have legislation regarding the notice of violation letter from the EPA related to storm water and Montgomery County Soil and Water helping to address some of the issues. They have gotten their submittals into the EPA on time, and they are reviewing those. They need to continue to follow up on inspections for larger sites over one acre that may disturb soil. Those need to have the proper silt fences and other erosion control in place. They are working with the county on a contract to provide those services ancillary to what assistance they are already providing. That will be coming before council as well. He stated next week's meeting will begin as a business meeting and end with a work session. MKSK, land use plan consultants, will have a presentation for council providing information and updates on the land use plan.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** No one was present for comment.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. ORDINANCES

- I) Ordinance No. 22-O-789 – An ordinance enacting a new Chapter 111, Council and repealing the existing Chapter 111 of the Administrative Code of the City of Riverside, Ohio. (1<sup>st</sup> reading)**

Deputy Mayor Denning motioned to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 22-O-789. Mrs. Franklin seconded the motion. The clerk read the ordinance by title only.

Roll call went as follows: Mr. Denning, yes; Mrs. Franklin, yes; Ms. Fry, yes; Ms. Lommatzsch, yes; Mr. Joseph, yes; Mr. Maxfield, yes; and Mayor Williams, yes. **Motion carried.**

### B. RESOLUTIONS

- I) Resolution No. 22-R-2739 – A resolution authorizing the city manager to sign contracts for the City of Riverside to design and construct modifications to the Airway West Pedestrian Crossing in an amount not to exceed \$69,585.00.**

Mr. Rauch explained that this resolution deals with removing the crosswalk they discussed several weeks ago. Council had tabled it at that time. This will remove it from the table and

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Riverside City Council Meeting

Held on Thursday, February 10, 2022

have them vote on it. If they decide not to approve the resolution, the funds will be used for the broader design standard.

Mrs. Franklin motioned to remove Resolution No. 22-R-2739 from the table. Deputy Mayor Denning seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

Deputy Mayor Denning motioned to approve Resolution No. 22-R-2739. Ms. Lommatzsch seconded the motion. Discussion was had with regard on taking roll call for this vote. Mr. Rauch clarified an 'aye' vote would be to build the crosswalk; a 'no' vote would take those funds to be used for the broader design standard. Roll call went as follows: Mr. Denning, no; Ms. Lommatzsch, no; Mrs. Franklin, no; Ms. Fry, no; Mr. Joseph, no; Mr. Maxfield, no; and Mayor Williams, no. **Motion failed.**

## **II) Resolution No. 22-R-2747 – A resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into an agreement with the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management for the purpose of coordinating emergency management and homeland security activities for the City of Riverside.**

Mr. Rauch stated this is a housekeeping resolution related to the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management. This is a regional organization that the city participates in. If there is a natural disaster or other emergency event, then they will partner with them for communications, other logistics, and support. They have been a member since 2003.

Mr. Maxfield motioned to approve Resolution No. 22-R-2747. Mr. Denning seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** No member of the public present.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:** Mr. Maxfield thanked the public service staff along with police and fire for battling the snow storm over the past weekend. He thanked the city manager for riding along with the service department to see what they have to do when they plow the roads. He wished the Bengals good luck over for the Superbowl even though he is a Browns fan.

Mr. Joseph thanked the public service department for their hard work during the storm. He stated working in personnel in the Navy, when things are going well nothing is heard about it, but when things go wrong they hear plenty. Without the service department, streets don't get paved, grass doesn't get cut; the city doesn't operate. He thanked Ms. Bartlett and her team, Chief Stitzel, and Chief Robinson for keeping the city running. He added he was born and raised in Cincinnati and cheered on the Bengals. He asked for everyone to be cautious in their celebrations over Superbowl weekend.

Mayor Williams stated he knew the moment the Bengals won the AFC Championship because he heard fireworks throughout the city. He stated it is hard being a Browns fan right now. He stated it is no surprise to him with regard to the excellence with which the staff



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Riverside City Council Meeting

Held on Thursday, February 10, 2022

conducted themselves during a major snow event. He reiterated Mr. Joseph's comment on when things are good nothing is said, but when things go bad, they hear it. He looked at Thursday and Friday as a non-event because the staff did a phenomenal job taking care of the city. He also thanked the citizens for taking care of their neighbors. He thanked the service department staff putting in many hours to make sure streets were passable and they were able to keep going as well as they could by the next day. He has gotten to know the department heads and Mr. Rauch and his leadership was very apparent last week. He is proud to be able to say they can work with them and the staff they lead. He stated the Mad River Local Schools did reschedule the community summit for Saturday, February 19, and they are able to support that.

Ms. Lommatzsch reiterated thanks to the departments for their role during the recent snow event. She commended the city manager for his leadership. She stated she was able to get out and go to work every day and was appreciative of that. She stated that she was at the historical society today and met with Mr. Ron Brohm on the Parks & Recreation Commission and he shared with her some suggestions for showing off the history of the city. She stated he is moving forward with the trail at the Eintracht, and financing a lot of it himself. Mr. Brohm believes he has found a historical still and vineyard, and is looking for information about the history of a vineyard and a still overlooking the river from anyone. She asked anyone with information to contact the city. Mr. Brohm is interested in making this walk with a beautiful overlook over the river. He is using a lot of his money to do this as the city doesn't have a lot of extra money to assist with it. She asked him to keep council informed so they can help advertise it as it is part of the park system. She stated he and Bill Holder created an idea to start 'Riverside Wonders' and will be back to council to discuss what they would like to do. She thanked the department heads for what they do everyday and not just when there is a storm. She added she understands the part-time issue with firefighters as she hears other departments with similar situations. She stated it is getting harder to find front line responders and it is difficult to get people to commit to that kind of work. She stated there is need for education for sidewalks and residents needing to clean them. If snow and ice are on the sidewalks and someone falls down, then it is on the resident and not on the city for not clearing it. There is personal liability. She stated she spoke with the city manager about getting some education on the webpage for personal liability and sidewalks.

Ms. Fry offered her thanks to the various departments over the storm event. She thanked the city's social media team for information shared with the community throughout the event. She stated there is a blood drive on February 21, 2022. The Blood Center had to cancel a few events during the snow storm so there is a need. She encouraged everyone who is able to donate to come on President's Day, February 21, as the blood mobile will be in the parking lot. Additionally, she recognized February as Black History Month. She shared that when she was younger she didn't fully understand Black History Month and thought it was just for celebration in the black community, but as an adult it is a great opportunity to learn about the richness of black history. The community has tremendous resources for that. She scans through Netflix to see what they have to offer; she also uses library resources. She encouraged people to find one aspect of black history they don't know and learn as it helps to enrich the community and the nation.

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Riverside City Council Meeting

Held on Thursday, February 10, 2022

Deputy Mayor Denning thanked everyone for the work they have done. He thanked the citizens who were able to get their cars off the street to allow plows to come down the streets. He stated the social media team helped with that. One thing he talked about years ago was some sort of One-Call system to be on a list to get contacted for emergencies. It is not cost prohibitive and they may wish to look at that again. For events like this, it they can separate for snow routes they can text and/or call and notify residents. They need more forms of communication and not less; social media doesn't hit everybody. If the internet went out, the cell system would still be in effect. Like with the tornado, it is important for people to hear from their city. The snow events would be good to use this as well. He agreed with the mayor that it doesn't surprise him as with past snow events he is proud of the service department a number of roads he traveled were clear. He stated they worked as a team as two trucks were side by side clearing the street at one time. That was more efficient rather than send one truck back and forth. He thanked the service department for doing that. He thanked the police and fire department for their efforts during the snow event. He added that a lot of times the service department often relies on the police to tell them when the roads are getting bad enough so they can go out. He stated it is great when they all work as a team and asked Ms. Bartlett to extend his thanks to the staff.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Deputy Mayor Denning motioned to go into Executive Session for the following reason: Attorney-Client Privilege - Section 103.01 (3) Conferences with any attorney representing the City as counsel, concerning disputes involving the City, its council, boards, commissions, officials and employees that are subject of pending or imminent court action or discussions of any matters which are properly covered under the attorney-client privilege as recognized by the law of Ohio. Mr. Joseph seconded the motion. Roll call went as follows: Mr. Denning, yes; Mr. Joseph, yes; Mrs. Franklin, yes; Ms. Fry, yes; Ms. Lommatzsch, yes; Mr. Maxfield, yes; and Mayor Williams, yes. **Motion carried.** Council went into Executive Session at 6:39 pm.

**RECONVENE:** Council reconvened at 7:28 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mrs. Franklin motioned to adjourn. Mr. Joseph seconded. All were in favor; none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.



Peter J. Williams, Mayor



Clerk of Council